

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The subsea pipeline commissioning method and apparatus of the present invention accomplishes subsea pipeline cleaning, dewatering or hydrostatic testing that is completely subsea using a submersible vehicle (SV) that carries and operates at least one pump on a fill and test skid that is dimensioned and powered to be able raise the internal pressure of a pipeline sufficiently for hydrostatic testing. The prior art of record provides no teaching of such an apparatus and thus no teaching of a method of its use. The present claims have been amended to clarify this novel and unique contribution to subsea pipeline service with its concomitant elimination of the need of a surface vessel having pumps on board the vessel to provide pumping capacity of a magnitude sufficient to conduct hydrostatic testing if desired.

I. Status of the Claims and Support for Amendments:

New claim 10 has been added. The language removed from claim 4 in the reissue application has been added as a dependent claim to claim 4 and raises no issues of patentability over the allowance of original claim 4.

Claims 1 - 9 have been restated to reflect amendments relative to the claims as originally issued. Amendments to the claims from the last amendment are as follows:

Amendments to claim 1: The phrase "one of said manifolds having a subsea pig launcher/receiver with a pig and the other having a subsea pig receiver" has been added back to the preamble to provide antecedent basis for the required re-addition of language asserted to have been improperly removed by amendment. The phrase "subsea skid" has been changed back to "test and fill package" to provide antecedent basis to the re-added language. The phrase "using a submersible vehicle (SV) to operate one or more pumps on a fill and test package to force seawater behind said pig and move the pig from the pig launcher/receiver to the pig receiver" has been added back as directed by the Examiner, albeit with two minor amendments to properly reflect antecedent basis. The last clause of the claim has been cleaned up and amendments from the issued claim are properly reflected.

Amendments to claim 2: None from last amendment, except to properly reflect amendments from the issued claim.

Amendments to claim 3: The further added language has been removed such that the only change from the issue claim is in the dependency.

Amendments to claim 4: None from last amendment, with the exception of restoring the language "said pipeline" in the last line and properly reflecting amendments from the issued claim.

Amendments to claim 5: Clarifying language re: antecedent basis such that the prior "[said] the pump to [said] the pipeline" now reads "said at least one high pressure pump to said pipeline." Again the use of "said" is restored merely to minimize changes to the claims and amendments from the issued claim are properly reflected.

Amendments to claim 6: None from last amendment, with the exception of correcting antecedent basis by changing "a fill and test package" to "the test and fill package" and properly reflect amendments from the issued claim.

Amendments to claim 7-9: None from last amendment, except to properly reflect amendments from the issued claims.

CONCLUSION

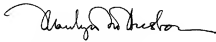
The Examiners approval of prior claims 4 – 9 is appreciated. Claim 1 has been amended in a manner that is believed to comport with the suggestion of the Examiner in the last office action. All amendments are shown relative to the issued claims in accordance with reissue practice. New dependent claim 10 is added to include in the claims those limitations deleted from claim 4 for purposes of the broadening reissue.

For the reasons stated herein, the Applicant respectfully submits that the reissue application is now in condition for allowance. Upon approval of the claims, a reissue declaration will be obtained.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees incurred in this application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1922. Should the Examiner have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Applicant's attorney at 832-446-2421.

Respectfully submitted on 5-18-2007.

By



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